



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

JO
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/810,385	03/16/2001	Allen S. Laughon	WARF-0002	8778
26259	7590	11/30/2006	EXAMINER	
LICATA & TYRRELL P.C. 66 E. MAIN STREET MARLTON, NJ 08053				HARRIS, ALANA M
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		1643		

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/810,385	LAUGHON, ALLEN S.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Alana M. Harris, Ph.D.	1643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 9-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 9-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments and Amendments

1. Claims 9-12 are pending.
Claims 9-12 have been added.
Claims 1-4 have been cancelled.
Claims 9-12 are examined on the merits.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Withdrawn Rejection

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement is withdrawn in light of the cancellation of the claims.

New Grounds of Rejection

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed,

Art Unit: 1643

had possession of the claimed invention is maintained and newly made. **THIS IS A NEW MATTER REJECTION.**

Applicant has added new claims 9-12 and with particularity claim 9 continues to contain language that is not supported by the specification. Section 1 of claim 9 contains the language "a promoter which is regulated by a TGF- β , activin or bone morphogenetic protein signal, wherein said cell co-expresses interacting proteins comprising a Smad protein, a DNA binding Smad co-repressor protein and a CtBP protein.

Applicant points out several pages and lines numbers, which purportedly support the claim language. These passages of the specification have been carefully reviewed and the arguments have been carefully considered, but they are found unpersuasive.

At most the passage contained within page 14, line 11 and page 15, line 12 mentions TGF- β - dependent reporter expression and one of ordinary skill in the art could assume that expression must be directed by a TGF- β promoter, but as noted in the FAOM mailed June 14, 2006 that may not happen under the exclusivity of the TGF- β promoter. This section of the specification does not make mention of the activin or bone morphogenetic protein signal influencing transcription. Pages 9 and 10 of the specification do not exemplify the claimed method and pages 1-3 in no form or fashion seem to contemplate the claimed method implementing activin or a bone morphogenetic protein signal to regulate a promoter, which in turn directs transcription. While at best one of ordinary skill in the art can assume there is a TGF- β promoter involved in the claimed method, clearly there is no support for activin or bone

Art Unit: 1643

morphogenetic protein signal regulating a promoter. It seems that none of the recited passages list the reporter with a TGF-B-dependent promoter or activin or bone morphogenetic protein signal within cells expressing specifically interacting proteins with the detection of transcription and the comparison between levels of transcription at precise points. And the specification does not exemplify an experimental design of the claimed assay. The steps listed in the claims are not of record in the specification. The claims do not meet the written description requirement because the specification is remiss of active method steps including the cells containing interacting proteins and compounds necessitated for implementing the claimed method.

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a. Claim 9, section a, line 3 cites a "bone morphogenetic protein signal". It is not clear what this signal is and how it regulates a promoter. Accordingly, the metes and bounds cannot be determined.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

Art Unit: 1643

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alana M. Harris, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571)272-0831. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am to 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry R. Helms, Ph.D. can be reached on (571) 272-0832. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ALANA M. HARRIS, PH.D.

PRIMARY EXAMINER

Alana M. Harris

Alana M. Harris, Ph.D.
27 November 2006